# HERE'S HOW FOR MADE-AT-HOME CHRISTMAS GIFTS

*1. One of the possibilities of black and white. 2. Old valentines may help. 3. Mother Goose people will delight the child. 4. Caramels fit nicely in a handkerchief box.*

## If Your Choice Be Candy, Why Not a Decorative Box for It of Your Own Construction? Paste-Pot and Scissors Are the Chief Utensils.

*By Nancy Woods Walburn.*

SIMPLE candies become highly acceptable Christmas presents when "dressed up" in decorative boxes like these. You may make any or all of them from ordinary pasteboard boxes and 10-cent store straw baskets, with "cut outs" from pictures, postcards, chintz and wall paper. Even the children would love to make them.

No. 1 is a strikingly successful box, which belies its humble origin of black paper used to cover an old candy box. A simple line and dot border in white paint outlines it and serves to frame a quaint 1830 "paper doll" lady cut from a cheap print. The tray and inside of this box are lined with wall paper. Possibly this may sound sombre, but with the new fad for black and white in old decorations I feel fortunate to be able to include it.

No. 2 shows how old valentines and greeting cards of many kinds may be utilized to advantage for these boxes. Here a young woman in a poster-like design has been used, words and all, for a white cardboard box. To enhance her beauty green kindergarten paper has been first pasted over the top for a background, upon which she is pasted after being cut out. Here a few strips and squares of vari-colored paper have been pasted as illustrated to give a futurist touch, but this is unnecessary.

No. 3 proves how successful wall paper or chintz or printed linen in a nursery design may become when thus cleverly adapted to a new role. These popular designs, which now may be had everywhere, lend themselves admirably to this use.

A large round wooden box in which many fancy groceries come, may be used, but pasteboard serves equally well, although not as durable for the aftermath of strenuous use in the nursery. This as illustrated is a charming gift for a child. First the box has been painted white, with a red rim; then cut-out figures from a gay Mother Goose chintz were pasted upon the box as shown, gayly frolicking around the sides, while little Jack Horner proudly displays his plum from the top. (This chintz sells for about 28 cents a yard with dozens of nursery figures in every yard.) For "grown-ups" a more sedate design of people and animals is suggested and just as attractive a result promised.

No. 4 is a flat handkerchief box of ordinary pasteboard, which will be found just the thing for home made caramels. Its top has pasted over it a flowered wall paper, then an oval of blue note paper, a cut-out head and shoulders of another quaint 1830 lady from a print pasted against the blue and then a little lace paper doily (minus its centre) used to frame the whole. Don't you feel sure this will be carefully retained to serve in its original role of a dainty handkerchief box on top of the bureau?

*5. A straw basket, dyed red, and adorned with a peacock. 6. A postcard mounted on a white pasteboard box. 7. The silhouette is effective. 8. A fig box disguised with burlap paper and a poinsettia.*

No. 5 is an ordinary straw basket, first dyed a vivid red, to serve as a background for a brilliant peacock cut out from cretonne and pasted upon the basket.

No. 6 is a 5-cent postcard, mounted on a white pasteboard box, with a wee painted garland of gay flowers. The latter effect is equally decorative of cut-out wall paper roses, pasted directly on the box, so as to frame the picture as illustrated. With the pronounced vogue for silhouette effects I have included a magazine cut-out which even with no further adornment gives box No. 7 an excellent effect. This is a suggestion as to how cleverly old magazine may be utilized for boxes which, despite their simplicity, a Fifth Avenue confectioner sells at an exorbitant price.

No. 8 is a wooden box in which cheese, figs and dates frequently come packed. Here it is entirely disguised with a heavy burlap wall paper in a creamish tan. On the top of the box over this is pasted a large cut-out poinsettia in brilliant reds and greens, again from wall paper.

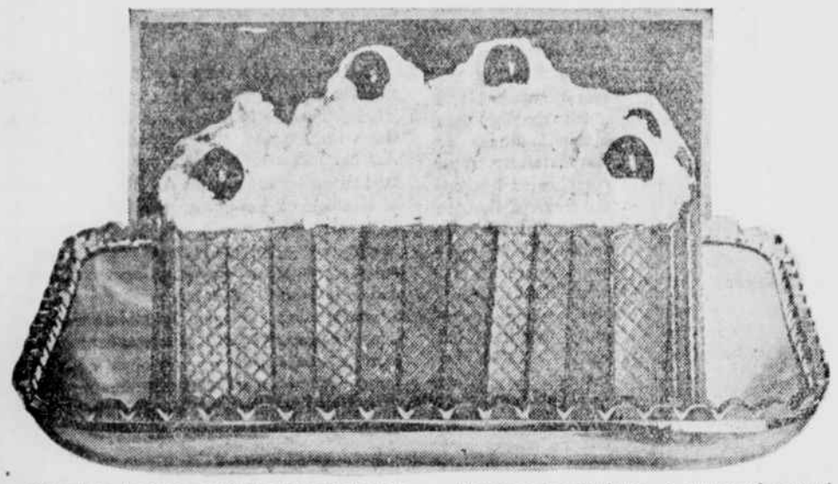
## Books Boys Like Best

THE Boy Scouts of America, the American Booksellers' Association and the American Library Association have put their heads together and taken concerted action against the practice of selling the old-fashioned "nickel thrillers" in attractive and deceptive bindings. Chief Scout Librarian Franklin K. Matthews has discovered that the practice is very wide and is responsible not only for "Safety First Juvenile Book Week," observed shortly before Christmas, but also for a list which is to be a guide post to boys and parents, pointing to the good books on the market and leading them away from the manufactured plots and characters of the old type of book, in which boys of sixteen did impossible feats in invention, science and discovery and where no natural or man made laws had the slightest bearing on the logic of events.

The following twenty-one books are selected from the list of 300 published by the Boy Scouts of America:

CRUISE OF THE CACHALOT. By Bullen, F. T. Illustrated. Everyman's Library, 50 cents.
TWO YEARS BEFORE THE MAST. By Dana R. H. Illustrated by E. Boyd Smith. Houghton, $1.50; Everyman's Library Edition, cloth, 35 cents; leather, 70 cents.
THE YOUNG ALASKANS. By Hough, Emerson. Illustrated. Harper, $1.25.
STOLEN TREASURE. By Pyle, Howard. Illustrated. Harper, $1.25.
TREASURE ISLAND. By Stevenson, R. L. $1.50. Illustrated by N. C. Wyeth. Scribner, $2.25; Everyman's Library Edition, 35 and 70 cents.
STORIES FROM THE FAERIE QUEEN. By McLeod, M. Illustrated. Stokes, cloth, $1.25.
THE STORY OF KING ARTHUR AND HIS KNIGHTS. By Pyle, Howard. Illustrated. Scribner, $2.
IVANHOE. By Scott, Sir Walter. Illustrated. McMillan, $1.25; Everyman's Library Edition, 35 and 70 cents.
STORIES FROM OLD FRENCH ROMANCE. By Wilmot-Buxton, E. M. Stokes, 75 cents.
THE MODERN VIKINGS. By Boyesen, Hjalmar H. Illustrated. Scribner, $1.25.
IN THE DAYS OF ALFRED THE GREAT. By Tappan, E. M. Illustrated. Lothrop, $1.
CAREERS OF DANGER AND DARING. By Moffett, Cleveland. Illustrated. Century, $1.50.
THE ADVENTURES OF TOM SAWYER. By Mark Twain. Illustrated. Harper, $1.75.
NIGHTS WITH UNCLE REMUS. By Harris, Joel C. Illustrated. Houghton, $1.40.
ABRAHAM LINCOLN: THE BOY AND THE MAN. By Morgan, James. Illustrated. MacMillan, $1.50.
THE PILOT. By Cooper, James Fenimore. Illustrated. Houghton $1.
MAN WITHOUT A COUNTRY. By Hale, E. E. Little, $1.25.
THE CALL OF THE WILD. By London, Jack. Illustrated. Everyman's Library, 50 cents.
THE TRAIL OF THE SANDHILL STAG. By Seton, Ernest Thompson. Illustrated. Scribner, $1.
SCOUTING WITH DANIEL BOONE. By Tomlinson, E. T. Illustrated. Doubleday, $1.20.
TOM BROWN'S SCHOOL DAYS. By Hughes, T. Illustrated. Harper, $1.50; Everyman's Library Edition, 35 and 70 cents.

## Charlotte Bavaroise



Oil a plain charlotte mould, line with oiled paper and arrange around it some nabisco wafers or sponge finger biscuits, trimming them, if necessary to fit evenly in the mould. Fill the mould up with a chocolate bavaroise and put the mould aside in a cold place or on ice until the bavaroise is set. When ready to serve, dip the charlotte mould in hot water for a moment, pass a cloth over the bottom to absorb any moisture and turn the charlotte out onto a dish; remove the paper and pour a thick apricot sauce over and around the charlotte, garnish with whipped cream and sprinkle it with some blanched and shredded pistachio kernels and candied cherries.

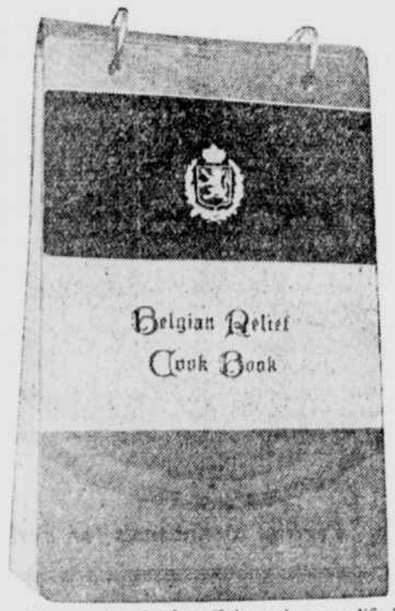
Bavaroise for Charlotte.—A quarter of a pound of chocolate, cut up small; add a few drops of essence of vanilla and put in a stewpan with two ounces of sugar and half a pint of milk; let it boil for about ten minutes, then dissolve it in half an ounce of gelatine and pour it onto three raw yolks of eggs in a bowl, keeping it stirred; then pour it back into the stewpan and stir it over the fire till it thickens, but do not let it boil. Strain through a muslin, and when it is getting cool add half a pint of whipped cream, a wineglassful of maraschino or other syrup and pour it into the mould to set.

## Belgian Relief Cook Book

"GOOD cooking should be part of the moral law." — Minnie Maddern Fiske.

This and many other wise observations upholding cooking as an art are made by famous men and women in the altogether unique and delightful Belgian Relief Cook Book issued by the Pennsylvania Committee, a Christmas gift that serves a triple purpose of contributing to relief for Belgium, bringing happiness to the housewife and good food to the family.

Women of Pennsylvania have contributed to the book recipes that have been handed down in their families for generations and which have hitherto never been revealed to the general public. In addition there are quite modern recipes.




The popular aim for efficiency is exemplified in the ring binders and the loose leaves, on which there is plenty of blank space for home recipes. To enliven the book, in addition, are friendly cautions to the housekeeper. For instance: "When you try a recipe follow it. Do not attempt to improve it the first time you use it."

And messages from these men and women back the pages: Rudolph Blankenberg, Bishop Rhinelander, Gene Stratton Porter, Gertrude Atherton, Mary Austin, David Belasco, Mabel T. Boardman, James Montgomery Flagg, Josephine Preston Peabody, Langdon Mitchell, Margaret Anglin, Harrison Rhodes, Mary Baird Bryan, Princess Troubetzkoy, Granville Barker, Lyman Abbott, Robert W. Chambers, John Wanamaker, Booth Tarkington, Carolyn Wells and many another to prove that cooking is an important occupation.

Some of the remarks follow:

Why do all men prefer chocolate cake?

To keep yolks of raw eggs fresh for several days, drop unbroken into a bowl of cold water.

The boards of health compel the milkmen to pasteurize their milk. How about them compelling the housewife to clean her refrigerator?

To spread icing smoothly on a cake, dip the icing knife frequently into hot water.

With a cake, half of "the making" is in the baking.

A steel knitting needle is a good thing with which to test a cake in the oven.

In the "dark ages" our grandmothers scoured all their cooking utensils. In this age of light and sanitation some of us don't even wash them.

It has been said that "what appeals to the eye generally appeals to the palate."

The modern house builder keeps cutting away from the kitchen and pantry to add to the parlor. The modern household is not happy. Could this be one of the reasons?

A man who marries a woman who doesn't know how to cook, who won't cook, and never intends to learn, deserves as much pity as a woman who marries a man who doesn't know how to work, who won't work, and never intends to learn. And That Is None At All.

The decoration of the table should be simple and low in design and in the centre of the table.

When you try a recipe, follow it. Do not attempt to improve the first time you use it.

Wash all vegetables well before using.

As a rule, in both boiling and simmering, the kettle should be tightly covered.

In boiling peas do not cover with a lid. A heaping tablespoon of sugar added to the boiling water will be a great improvement to their flavor. If the peas are young and tender, fifteen minutes will be sufficient; to boil longer will make them tough.

## New Patchwork Coverings

FOR the last few years the bargain counters of the January sale have held an article of bedding which was not previously found on them and which has not yet come into its own in the American family. This is the wool-filled comfort. For generations American housewives made wonderful patchwork coverings and wadded them with cotton, and until a few years ago cotton was the only material obtainable for these quilts.

Now, however, sheets of carded wool, as well as the ready made wool comforts or quilts, are to be had, and nothing more desirable than the wool-filled comfort was ever invented for cold weather coverings.

The sheet wadding comes in three weights, all having the same dimensions—72 by 84 inches. The lightest contains one pound of wool and costs about $1. It is designed as filling for a crib quilt and to be folded over into half size. The next heavier weighs two pounds and costs about $2, while the heaviest weighs three pounds and costs about $3. The prices vary slightly at the sales in different stores.

Ready made wool comforts can be bought at various prices, from $3.50 up, according to the thickness of the wool and the quality of the covering.

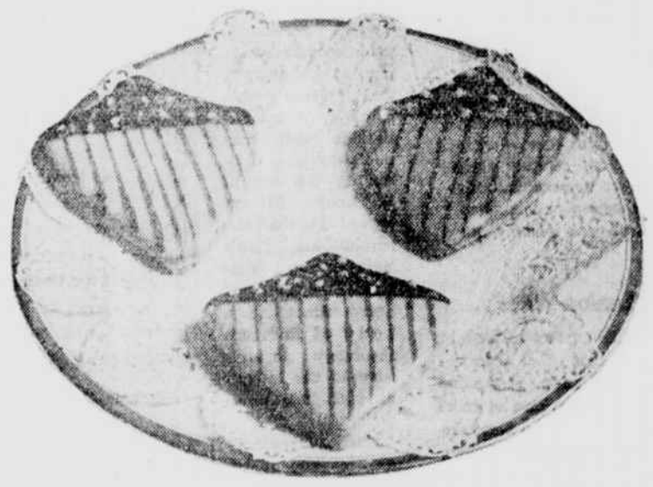
Many housekeepers now prefer wool-filled comforts to those filled with down, since the wool-filled comforts never "shed" as down puffs will after usage. They are especially desirable for children and for elderly persons, since they are warm but not heavy. A three-pound wool comfort weighs about half as much as a full sized woollen blanket.

Sateen makes an excellent covering for wool comforts. A flowered centre, bordered with a plain color, is especially attractive. It can be knotted with silk or quilted in any fancied pattern.

Now that wool filling is obtainable it is quite possible that patchwork may take on a new lease of life. It is also probable that many old-fashioned patchwork quilts made by our grandmothers may be pulled from chests and drawers, where they have been for many years in retirement, filled with a fresh wool wadding and made to do service once more on the beds of grandmothers' descendants.

In recent years, since machinery for carding cotton has reached such a degree of perfection that cotton blankets can be made to look as soft and fleecy as woollen ones and can be sold at a very low cost, the popularity of the cotton-filled quilt has declined, but now that sheets of carded wool can be secured without difficulty, it seems likely that the "best quilt" will once more assume its position of honor in the housekeeper's outfit of bedding supplies.

## Preparedness Cakes



The bases of these decorated cakes are cut out soda biscuits, covered with white icing and red and white sugar figuring.

# A KNOWLEDGE OF SOURCES

"Come to him from nowhere in particular, by parcel post."

## The Country Child in the Modern System of Organization Is Isolated from Affairs of the City Quite as Completely as the City Child Is Barred from an Understanding of Rural Activities---Parents, Not Schools, Must Effect the Cure.

By SIDONIE MATZNER GRUENBERG.

A CITY BRED BOY of some seven years was taken to the country for the good of his health. During his first breakfast in the new surroundings he was asked whether he wished any milk.

"What kind of milk do you use?" he asked, as he had heard visitors ask his mother at home.

"Why, cow's milk, of course," was the uncomprehending reply of the native dispenser of good things to eat.

"Then I don't want any, thank you," said Jimmie. "We use only Anderson's milk."

This was considered very funny at the time, and the story was told to all who would stay long enough to listen. Incidentally, Jimmie learned a great deal about cows that no one had ever considered it necessary to teach him. And he learned something about the sources of milk, and about how it comes to present itself in bottles at the front step every morning.

As business and industry become better organized, our children seem to have less and less opportunity to become acquainted with the various elements that make up what Charles Edward Russell calls "the heart of the nation"—the activities and processes upon which we depend for the things and materials we use in our daily lives. And in a way this is quite as true of the country child as it is of the city child. The former accumulates a great deal of first hand knowledge about raising garden truck and crops and farm animals, but the dishes and the table ware, the stationery and the hardware, most of the clothing and of the house furnishings come to him from nowhere in particular, by way of the parcels post or express, or at best by way of the "general store."

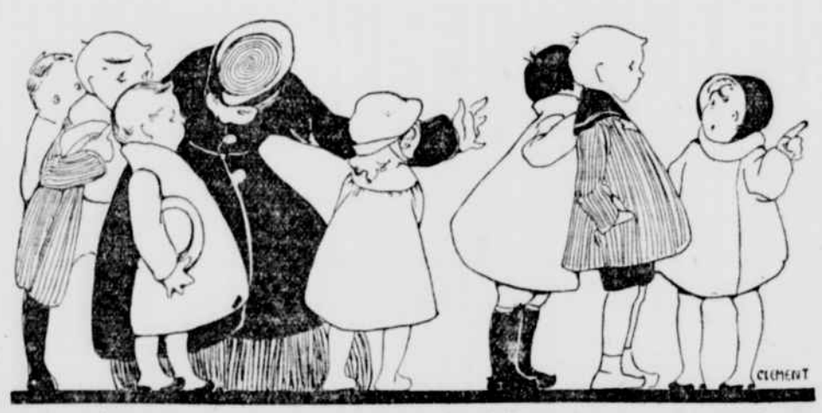
So much of what is daily consumed or used comes to the child with no more formality than the making of a request, that the question of the source and of the manner of origin of these daily necessities and conveniences has no chance to form itself. Children do, indeed, come to know something of the catalogue, of the advertisements in the newspapers and magazines that serve as guides to buyers, and they learn something of the buying and selling of merchandise. But unless they happen to live in the neighborhood of a producing establishment of some kind—a factory or a dairy, a pottery or a mill—the relation of human effort to the origin of things is quite obscured to them.

The chief danger in dwelling in this ready made universe lies in the child's failure to learn relative values and in hindering his adjustment to the demands of the workaday world. It is not merely for the sake of interesting or conventional information that the child should learn about the fundamental activities of his own neighbors and of the more remote workers upon whose exertions his very existence depends. It is for the sake of making him realize the relations between using and making. It is for the sake of knowing the relations and interdependence of people. It is for the sake of making him feel that all having and all enjoying depends ultimately upon doing, and that he must look forward to taking his place among the producers of the world as well as among the consumers.

Those of us who are fairly familiar with the important facts of our economic life have probably acquired them so gradually and so casually that it is difficult for us to realize that the changing conditions make it almost impossible for our children to acquire these ideas in the same way. It is difficult for us to realize that we must actually do deliberately and consciously what came to us so informally and incidentally. But if we give a little thought to our conversation with our children, we shall see how necessary is this help. When they get past believing everything in the fairy tales, it is time for them to know that our material welfare does not rest upon rubbing magic rings or lamps, or upon uttering mystic words. Our conversation with them should forsake the assumption that the little fairies provide us with what we need, and should face frankly and directly the question of how our daily needs are actually provided for.

The child in the city needs to know more about the farm than he can learn from books and pictures; and the child in the country needs to know more about factories than he can read in a magazine. It may not be possible for every family to arrange for the visits of the children to the sites of the various activities upon which our community life depends. But it has been possible in two or three towns of very different size for groups of parents to arrange for very interesting and instructive visits of children to significant establishments. In one Western town a group of fathers planned to take turns in conducting the children of the schools through the business and industrial plants. In an Eastern city the mothers of the children of a school made a similar arrangement. While it is not convenient to take large groups of children on such tours of inspection, it is better to take a small group of ten or a dozen children, than merely three or four of a family. The presence of the other children helps to bring about a certain mental attitude that is not obtained when we have things explained to a narrowly restricted group.

There is an opportunity here for parents to do valuable supplementary work for their children in coöperation with the schools and with the other institutions of the community. To learn in the course of a few years all that is involved in a pair of shoes as a product of human labor is a liberalizing experience for any boy or girl.

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